

## AVIATION COMMAND AND CONTROL

The Marine Air Control Group provides the Aviation Combat Element commander with the Marine Air Command and Control System (MACCS) agencies necessary to exercise command and control of aviation assets in support of Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF), naval, and joint operations. These agencies provide the ability to plan, coordinate, command, and supervise the application of the six functions of Marine Aviation.

While the MACCS is sustaining its existing systems to support today's combat operations, it is also modernizing its expeditionary air command and control (C2), sensor, and weapons capabilities in an effort to be fielded between fiscal year 2008 and fiscal year 2017. The key thrusts of this modernization effort are focused on expeditionary packaging, modern information technology, and joint integration.

In conjunction with equipment modernization, Marine Aviation C2 is supporting a number of new initiatives that will bring new capabilities, improved doctrine and training, and organizational change that will ensure more efficient and effective aviation support to expeditionary naval joint, and coalition forces. This effort is being guided by the Aviation C2 Transformation Task Force (TTF) under the guidance of Headquarters, Marine Corps (HQMC) Aviation Command and Control (APC).

### AVIATION C2 TRANSFORMATION TASK FORCE

The Deputy Commandants for both Aviation and Combat Development chartered the Aviation C2 TTF in November 2002 to ensure the effective introduction of the Aviation C2 family of systems (FoS) into the operating forces. The Marine Corps has programmed the FoS fielding between fiscal year 2008 and fiscal year 2017. The cornerstone of the Aviation C2 FoS, the Common Aviation C2 System (CAC2S), will reach Initial Operational Capability (IOC) in fiscal year 2009. Next, networked ground-based sensors and unmanned aerial vehicles are scheduled to reach Initial Operating Capability between fiscal year 2010 and fiscal year 2011. The TTF provides a proactive mechanism for HQMC advocates, expeditionary force development organizations, acquisition commands, supporting establishment activities, and operating forces to formulate and implement changes to Doctrine, Organization, Training, Materiel, Leadership, Personnel, and Facilities (DOTMLPF). The TTF membership is comprised of operating force and supporting establishment stakeholders.

### MACCS-X

To support testing and combat development of future Aviation C2, the Marine Corps established the MACCS-X Operational Development Team (ODT) in July 2005. The mission of MACCS-X ODT

is to provide developmental and operational test support, evaluate the concept of employment for the transformation of the MACCS, and validate DOTMLPF concepts and recommendations.

### MARINE AVIATION C2 VISION

The vision for Aviation C2 is the development of a system that contains expeditionary multi-functional C2 nodes able of performing the full array of aviation C2 functions throughout the range

of military operations. Our system must seamlessly integrate with all existing C2 systems and fully support the MAGTF and Joint Force commanders from the demands of the initial 72 hours of battle to the follow on demands of Phase Four operations. As we proceed forward, we will transform incrementally replacing our existing capability with the most capable, effective and responsive system that technology, resources and personnel can provide.